(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have invited suggestions from economic experts, management experts, water-management experts and agriculture experts; and

(e) if so, the names of these experts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The draft National Agriculture Policy to promote sustainable and demand driven growth of agriclture, based on efficient use of natural resources to face the challenges arising from economic liberalization and globalization, is under final stage of drafting. The Policy will address all aspects related to agriculture in a comprehensive and integrated manner.

(d) and (e) Eminent agricultural administrators, scientists and experts, like Prof. Ashok Gulati, Prof. Kirit Parikh, Prof. Abhijit Sen, among others, have been consulted in the matter.

Declaration of Orissa's Destruction a National Calamity

†894. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plased to state:

(a) whether Govenrment are hesitating to declare Orissa's destruction as National calamity due to World Banks pressure;

(b) whether some organisations and groups have given a memorandum to the Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) if so, what is Government's decision on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is no provision for declaring a natural calamity as a "national calamity". However, the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 in Orissa is being dealt with as a national calamity and relief,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

restoration and rehabilitation measures have been taken up on a national scale.

Declining Share of Agriculture in GDP

†895. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be plased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the contribution of the agriculture sector in Gross Domestic Production is gradually declining;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this context;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in absence of agriculture policy, the uncertainty and lack of balance in Gross Domestic Production have also contributed to the declining contribution in agriculture;

(d) if not, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(e) by when Government is likely to declare the agriculture policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of the process of economic growth and development, the share of agriculture sector in GDP tends to decline.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The Govenrment is implementing a number of programmes/schemes for the continued sustainable growth of the agriculture sector.

(e) The National Agriculture Policy is in the final stages of drafting.

Average Production of Crops in Assam

896. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average yield of major agricultural crops in Assam in the context of national average productivity;

(b) factors identified to be associated with low productivity and action plan finalised to recover the loss; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.